

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 EB-08 ITC-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 IO-13
ACDA-07 SAJ-01 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /082 W
-----261035Z 049412 /10

O R 261015Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5039
USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 01472

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PGOV WB GE UR GW US UK FR
SUBJECT: INCREASE IN REICHSBAHN TARIFFS FOR ALLIED
MILITARY TRAINS TO BERLIN

REFS: (A) USBER 230; (B) USBER 215; (C) BONN 1211;
(D) BONN 935; (E) 76 USBER 2524

BEGIN SUMMARY. THE BONN GROUP HAS AGREED, SUBJECT TO
CONFIRMATION OF THE UK POSITION BY LONDON, THAT
ALLIED MISSIONS IN BERLIN SHOULD TAKE A TWO-FOLD
APPROACH BEFORE FEBRUARY 1: (A) INFORM THE REICHSBAHN
THAT IT SHOULD TAKE UP WITH THE SOVIETS ITS DESIRE
FOR A TARIFF INCREASE ON MILITARY TRAINS, AND (B) INFORM
THE SOVIETS OF (A) AND STATE THAT WE EXPECT THAT ALLIED
TRAINS WILL CONTINUE TO MOVE UNHINDERED. END SUMMARY.

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1. AS AGREED IN A TRIPARTITE MEETING ON NOVEMBER 24,
THE UK REP (HITCH) AS CHAIRMAN
REOPENED DISCUSSION OF THE NOVEMBER 1 NOTICE FROM THE
REICHSBAHN OF AN INCREASE IN TARIFFS AFFECTING ALLIED
TRAINS IN THE JANUARY 25 BONN GROUP MEETING.
HITCH REPORTED THAT THE QUESTION HAD NOT ARISEN DURING
THE JANUARY 19 WRIGHT-ABRASIMOV LUNCHEON AND PROPOSED

THAT THE BONN GROUP AGREE ON A PLAN FOR ACTION TO BE TAKEN BEFORE THE FEBRUARY 1 DATE SET BY THE REICHSBAHN FOR THE NEW TARIFF SCHEDULE. HE NOTED THE SUGGESTION OF THE BERLIN MISSIONS (PARA 5, REF A) FOR A TWO STEP APPROACH.

2. FRG REP (HENZE) MENTIONED ONE POSSIBLE PROBLEM. HE STATED THAT THE NEXT MONTHLY BALANCING OF ACCOUNTS BETWEEN THE BUNDESBahn AND THE REICHSBAHN WILL BE ON FEBRUARY 15. UNDER NORMAL PRACTICE, THE TARIFFS FOR THE ALLIED TRAINS ARE INCLUDED IN THE ACCOUNT SUBMITTED BY THE BUNDESBahn, BUT IT WILL BE LESS THAN THE REICHSBAHN IS DEMANDING. HENZE SAID HE COULD NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE GDR WOULD REACT BY IMPEDING CIVIL BUNDESBahn TRAFFIC.

3. HENZE ADMITTED THAT THE PROBABILITY OF SUCH A REACTION WAS NOT TOO GREAT, AS THE BUNDESBahn TRAINS ARE FITTED INTO A VERY TIGHT SCHEDULE. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, HENZE SAID HE WAS NOT SUGGESTING THAT THE BUNDESBahn SHOULD BEGIN PAYING THE NEW RATES FOR THE ALLIED TRAINS, ADDING THAT THE BUNDESBahn COULD NOT OR AT LEAST WOULD NOT DO SO WITHOUT ALLIED AUTHORIZATION.

4. AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION THE BONN GROUP AGREED ON THE FOLLOWING APPROACH:

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(A) BEFORE FEBRUARY 1, THE THREE MISSIONS SHOULD RESPOND TO THE NOVEMBER 1 LETTER FROM THE REICHSBAHN BY INFORMING IT THAT THE MATTERS RAISED IN THE LETTER SHOULD BE TAKEN UP WITH THE SOVIETS. IT WOULD BE UP TO THE MISSIONS TO DECIDE WHETHER SUCH A RESPONSE SHOULD BE WRITTEN OR ORAL.

(B) AT THE SAME TIME, THE ALLIES SHOULD INFORM THE SOVIETS OF THE LETTERS FROM THE REICHSBAHN AND OF THE ALLIED RESPONSE AND SHOULD ADD THAT THE ALLIES OF COURSE LOOKED TO THE SOVIETS TO SEE THAT THE ALLIED TRAINS CONTINUE TO RUN ON TIME.

5. HITCH RAISED THE QUESTION OF PROPOSING TO THE SOVIETS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUADRIpartite UMBRELLA FOR TALKS BETWEEN THE BUNDESBahn AND THE REICHSBAHN ON POSSIBLE TARIFF INCREASES. THE BONN GROUP AGREED WITH THE SUGGESTION OF THE US REP, HOWEVER, THAT NO SUCH SUGGESTION SHOULD BE MADE UNLESS OR UNTIL THE

SOVIETS REOPENED THE MATTER AFTER THE INITIAL ALLIED

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USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-08 ITC-01 COME-00 IO-13 TRSE-00
ACDA-07 SAJ-01 /082 W

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 01472

APPROACH.

6. MEICHSNER OF THE BERLIN REPRESENTATION SUGGESTED ONE DESIRABLE TACTIC FOR AVOIDING NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE BUNDESBahn AND THE REICHSBAHN MIGHT BE TO PRESENT TO THE SOVIETS A FIGURE FOR THE AMOUNT THE ALLIES WOULD BE WILLING TO PAY IN THE FUTURE. SUCH AN OFFER, EVEN THOUGH LOWER THAN THE NEW TARIFFS DEMANDED BY THE REICHSBAHN, MIGHT PROVE ACCEPTABLE AND WOULD BE ARRANGED IN A QUADRIpartite FRAMEWORK. US REP DREW FROM ARGUMENTATION IN PARA 4, REF (A), TO SUGGEST THAT SUCH AN APPROACH SEEMED UNDESIRABLE UNTIL WE HAD STUDIED THE MATTER FURTHER AND WERE FULLY AWARE OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF AGREEING TO MAKE ANY PAYMENT FOR PASSENGER TRAINS, WHICH HERETOFORE HAVE APPARENTLY

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TRANSITED THE GDR AT GDR EXPENSE.

7. AT ALLIED REQUEST, THE FRG REP PROVIDED COPIES OF RELEVANT ALLIED DIRECTIVES FROM 1946 WHICH WE ARE POUCHING TO USBER.

8. AS THE APPROACH TO THE SOVIETS WILL BE MADE BY THE UK MISSION IN BERLIN, AS CHAIRMAN, HITCH IS SEEKING APPROVAL FROM LONDON OF THE PROPOSED SCENARIO. US, FRENCH, AND FRG REPS GAVE FINAL AGREEMENT TO THE SCENARIO, SUBJECT OF COURSE TO RECEIVING CONTRARY INSTRUCTIONS FROM CAPITALS.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT USBER, UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO THE CONTRARY BY THE DEPARTMENT, COORDINATE WITH THE BRITISH AND FRENCH MISSIONS ON THE TWO APPROACHES OUTLINED IN PARA 4 ABOVE BEFORE FEBRUARY 1.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY EQUIPMENT, BERLIN QUADRIpartite MATTERS, BERLIN RAILROAD ACCESS, TARIFFS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Subject: INCREASE IN REICHSBAHN TARIFFS FOR ALLIED MILITARY TRAINS TO BERLIN
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, GC, UR, GE, US, UK, FR
To: STATE USBERLIN
Type: TE
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